

During 2005, she was assigned to her current position as Community Programs Specialist.

Throughout her career, Karen assisted Illinois in processing loans and grants to rural communities and nonprofit organizations to improve and construct infrastructure projects. The projects she assisted on ranged from water and wastewater systems, public safety, and health and community services. She received numerous awards for outreach, marketing, and processing, and served on various national task forces which ultimately benefited residents in rural Illinois.

I am proud to honor Karen for her work on behalf of the people of Illinois, and I wish her the best in her retirement.

HONORING BLAIR FREDERICK  
KARGES

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 5, 2016*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Blair Frederick Karges of Douglas County, Missouri for his lifelong care and service to this country.

Mr. Karges graduated from Pine City, Minnesota High School in May of 1939. At the age of 20 he was drafted into the United States Army. He served with the 544th Engineer Boat and Shore Regiment, 4th Engineer Special Brigade as a Company Armor & Squad Leader in the Cargo Control section moving cargo, troops, and anything else the army might need. He served on islands in the Netherland East Indies, Luzon, Philippines, and the occupation of Japan following their surrender. He received numerous awards, including the Philippine Liberation Ribbon Bronze Star, before being discharged on January 9, 1946. He later went on to serve in the Colorado Air National Guard as a Staff Sergeant from October of 1953 until October of 1956.

Mr. Karges then worked as an insurance agent for Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. until he retired in April of 1981. He married his loving wife, Pamela, on November 21, 1984 and they have lived happily together since.

Mr. and Mrs. Karges moved to Douglas County thirty years ago in May of 1986. Here he has remained very active in the community. Mr. Karges distributes meals for the Senior Center every week, works at Heart of the Hills distribution center one day a week, and is a member of the Douglas County Veterans Memorial Association. For his outstanding career and community achievements, it is my pleasure to recognize Blair Frederick Karges before the United States House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JACQUELINE A.  
YOUNG

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 5, 2016*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me as I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Jacqueline A. Young on her retirement from the

Essex Regional Educational Services Commission in June 2016.

Dr. Young has been an educator for 42 years. She received her B.A. from Douglas College and her M.Ed. and Ed.D. from Rutgers University Graduate School of Education. Dr. Young began her career as an Elementary School Teacher in the Newark Public Schools. She then worked as an Elementary School Teacher and a Reading Resource Teacher for the East Orange School District. In 1980, she joined the New Jersey Department of Education as a Basic Skills Consultant and soon became a School Program Coordinator. In that capacity, she served as a facilitator between the Essex County Office of Education and the special needs urban districts for school improvement activities.

Since 1982, Dr. Young has been at the Essex Regional Educational Services Commission (ERESC) where she has held several positions including Supervisor of Instruction and Director of Services to Nonpublic Schools. In 1992, she assumed the position of Superintendent. Under her leadership and direction, the ERESO has grown into the largest educational services commission in the State of New Jersey. The ERESO provides services to local school districts, agencies and nonpublic schools throughout northern New Jersey.

Over half of Dr. Young's career has been spent championing the needs of special education and at risk students. During her tenure at the ERESO, she has assisted school districts by developing programs and establishing schools to meet the needs of those students who have difficulty functioning in traditional school settings. These schools incorporate strategies and techniques conducive to the educational and emotional needs of the students in an environment with a low student/teacher ratio. In September 1997, Dr. Young assumed the responsibility of establishing a school for pre-adjudicated adolescents in the Essex County Juvenile Detention Center in Newark which is now called Sojourn High School. Sojourn High School addresses the specific needs of the students using a combination of thematic instruction and service learning. For the past 19 years, she and her staff have provided these students with the opportunity to earn high school diplomas from their resident school districts or GEDs. Presently, the ERESO operates the following schools: Essex Campus Academy in Fairfield; Essex Junior Academy in Cedar Grove and Essex High School in Passaic in addition to Sojourn High School.

Dr. Young has received awards from a variety of organizations and communities for her work with this population of students. She was inducted into the Rutgers African American Alumni Alliance Hall of Fame Award in October 2011 and received the Shirley Chisholm "Catalyst For Change" Award. She is a member of the National Association of School Administrators, New Jersey Association of School Administrators, New Jersey Network of Superintendents, New Jersey Superintendents' Study Council, Essex County Superintendents' Group, Association of Educational Service Agencies, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, International Reading Association and Phi Delta Kappa. In addition, she is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Montclair Alumnae Chapter. At this time, she is Co-Chairperson of Delta GEMS which stands for "Growing and Em-

powering Myself Successfully". This program services teenage girls between the ages of 14 and 18 in grades 9–12 addressing the following areas: sisterhood, community service, scholarship, college preparation and career options. Dr. Young's sincere concern for these young people and dedication to helping them has been a source of inspiration throughout her career.

Mr. Speaker, I know my fellow members of the U.S. House of Representatives agree that Dr. Jacqueline A. Young deserves to be recognized for a job well done and for many years of service to the people of New Jersey.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF WEST  
DES MOINES

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 5, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of West Des Moines, Iowa for its recognition as a 2015 Tree City USA sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry program (the Forest Service).

The City of West Des Moines has met the core standards for tree care during the past year. Over 135 million Americans live in Tree USA communities. In its 40th year of celebration, the Tree City USA program is critical to the U.S. Forest Service. This federal partner delivers technical and financial resources to states, cities and communities across the nation with each community adhering to a State Action Plan, guiding investments in each state while accomplishing local projects and programs.

The U.S. Forest Service and Arbor Day Foundation cooperate with communities to establish healthy forests, improve air and water quality and contribute to important national energy conservation goals. These local investments create long term major environmental improvements nationwide.

I commend the City of West Des Moines and urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the community on this award and in wishing the city nothing but continued success.

POPE COUNTY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 5, 2016*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I wish to acknowledge the residents of Pope County celebrating their Bicentennial Anniversary.

Pope County was established on January 10, 1816, when it received its name from Nathaniel Pope, then Secretary of the Illinois Territory. In 1818 when Illinois entered the Union as a free state, the population of Pope County mostly reflected the emigration of Europeans to America that occurred in the 19th century.

Pope County has since been the home to many notable citizens including: American